

FORM NO. 51-4AA
FEB 1952

INTEL REF 23

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 18 April 1952

SUBJECT 1. Recruiting and Training for Chinese Communist
Army and Militia

NO. OF PAGES 2

2. Conference of Kwangtung Military District

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In late 1951, peasants and male laborers between the ages of 16 and 45 were required to join the Chinese Communist militia reserve. Earlier regulations had exempted peasants and laborers in productive work as well as backward persons or persons of doubtful political loyalty.
2. On 21 February 1952, the Chinese Communist Ministry of Education ordered all science and engineering schools to reduce their courses from four to three years in order to lessen educational expenses and obtain more technical personnel.¹
3. As of mid-February the Northeast China Military Area Command was planning to recruit 50,000 physically fit males between 30 and 41 years of age in compliance with the Emergency Defense Plan drawn up by the USSR. These recruits were to be trained in Manchuria and used as replacements for regular Chinese Communist troops.
4. In early 1952, CH'EN I, commander of the 3 Field Army, was trying to train one million regular troops and ten million militiamen in the East China Military Area.
5. In mid-February the Kiangsu provincial commissar's office² ordered all hsien

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governments to increase the hsien militia from three to five battalions before the end of 1952. Weapons used by the militia consisted of hand grenades and locally made rifles, which were in poor condition.

6. In mid-February, the Central and South China Military Area Command ordered military sub-districts along the Kwangtung coast to recruit more fishermen for the army. Six thousand fishermen were to be recruited, sent to Swatow, Whampoa, and Yulin³ for training, and used as replacements for coastal defense units in Kwangtung.
7. In October 1951, Chinese Communist authorities recruited 1,600 progressive farmers and militia officers for a six-month training course at the Ch'en Chia Tz'u (陳家祠) Military Cadre School at P'ant'ang (泮塘), Canton. The course, originally scheduled to end in April 1952, was to end in March because of the urgent need for military cadres.

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8. On 22 February a conference, under the chairmanship of HSIAO Hsiang-jung⁴, was held in the office of the staff department of the Kwantung Military District. The following proposals made by LI Tso-p'eng⁵ were approved:

- a. Militia units would be selected from various places in Kwangtung and transferred to Haifeng (115-20, 22-58), Lufeng (115-38, 22-58), and Huiyang (114-26, 23-05) to strengthen regular garrison troops.
- b. The Central and South China Military Area would be requested to postpone temporarily the reorganization of public security units in the Ch'aoshan (潮汕), Hsingmei (興梅), and East River areas.

9. Other suggestions made at this conference included the followings:

- a. Five thousand rounds of Model 79 rifle⁶ ammunition should be distributed to district public security units.
- b. Public security units of the Nanhai (113-08, 23-02), P'anyu (113-26, 23-01), and Shunte (113-16, 22-50) districts should be transferred to the Pearl River coastal area to strengthen defenses in that area.
- c. Disabled soldiers arriving in South China from the North should be returned to their native places after being decorated according to their service; and the district governments should provide an adequate living for these soldiers in accordance with their decorations.

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1. [redacted] in January 1952 the East China Department of Education ordered all colleges in East China to speed up courses for students majoring in chemical, mechanical, or electrical engineering or in medicine.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Probably the office of vice chairman of the Provincial Government concerned with Party liaison.

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3. [redacted] Comment. Presumably Yulin on Hainan Island.

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4. [redacted] early May 1951 that HSIAO was political commissar of the 15 Army Group and head of Canton Headquarters.

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5. [redacted] Comment. LI Tso-p'eng has been reported as chief of staff of the Kwangtung Military District. [redacted]

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6. [redacted] Comment. Probably means the 7.9 mm rifle.

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